

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I think Sinclair's actions are even more despicable when you take into consideration the past. When "Nightline" aired a segment saluting our fallen soldiers in Iraq by reading off each of their names in a very moving segment, Sinclair ordered his stations not to air the segment because he believed it to be political. Now, when he has a chance to use the airwaves to help his politician, the rules apparently don't apply anymore to him. I think Sinclair should be fined and publicly remanded for his actions.

Thank you.